GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7050
ANSWERED ON:14.05.2002
PROTECTED WATER SUPPLY SCHEME
AMBATI BRAHMANAIAH

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Drinking Water Mission has launched Protected Water Supply Scheme for a cluster of Panchayats;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have explored the cost cutting benefit of having a PWS scheme for a cluster of Panchayats; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M. K. PATIL)

(a) to (d) : Rural Water Supply being a State subject, the schemes for providingdrinking water supply in rural areas are implemented by the State Governments with their own resources. The Central Government supplements the efforts of the States by providing funds under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) and the Drinking Water Supply component of the Prime Minister`s Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY). The powers to plan, sanction and implement Rural Water Supply schemes under the above programmes rests with the State Governments. Hence the decision whether community should have a single or multi village scheme is taken by the State Governments. Various analysis like cost benefit analysis and economy of scale etc are carried out by the State implementing agencies at the time of implementation of individual rural water supply schemes.

Various innovative ideas in the rural water supply sector could be experimented under the Sector Reform Projects being implemented in 64 pilot districts. These projects attempt to institutionalise community participation in Rural Water Supply activities so as to ensure sustainability of systems and sources. As such community is equipped and encouraged to plan, sanction, partially fund, implement, operate maintain and manage small, single village schemes of their own choice themselves. The option of multi village schemes is a last choice if no other local source based, cost effective scheme acceptable, adaptable and affordable to the community is feasible in a village/Panchayat. In such cases the community may consider multi village/Panchayat schemes for cluster of panchayats/villages/habitations.